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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E FOR JLIDDLE, OES
DEPARTMENT PASS USAID FOR OFDA
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [ENRG](#) [EAGR](#) [SENV](#) [TPHY](#) [TRGY](#) [TZ](#)

SUBJECT: Tanzania Volcano Assessment: No current threat

Ref: 2008 DAR ES SALAAM 864

¶1. A three-person technical assistance team from the USAID/OFDA and USGS Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP), responding to an urgent request from President Kikwete (reftel), completed its assessment visit on the Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano on January 28. Team representative Gari Mayberry, presenting the team's findings to Kikwete, explained that the low-level activity occurring at the volcano, with lava flows constrained in the summit crater, poses no current threat to the people living in close proximity to the volcano.

¶2. The VDAP team had two levels of recommendations for the GOT based on their preliminary assessment. First level recommendations, achievable with minimal resources, would include an education component for residents in close proximity to the volcano; an emergency action plan; a paid watchperson to alert authorities and contact the Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) when explosive activity occurs; and sending members of the Geological Survey of Tanzania to volcano-monitoring and risk communication training. Level two recommendations would involve more substantial and long-term investments, including establishing an Observatory and use of volcano-monitoring equipment.

¶3. The VDAP team praised the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) for its assessment and preliminary recommendations. Though the GST lacks extensive volcanological experience and monitoring equipment, its assessment was thorough. The VDAP team proposed changing the GST's expansive danger zone to be more focused on areas that are most impacted by eruptions, but otherwise was in agreement. Mayberry gave President Kikwete a copy of the Draft Report of Findings and said the team would be working in collaboration with the GST over the next couple of weeks to issue a final report.

¶4. Embassy thanks the Department, USGS and USAID/OFDA for their rapid response to the urgent request from the President Kikwete, who personally expressed his appreciation to CDA and VDAP representative for USG support.

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